

- (b) a user station at the plurality of customer households, enabling the customer household to preview the plurality of music selections a predetermined number of times before billing the customer household for the plurality of music selections, the user station including:
- i. a user interface for permitting the customer household to preselect a transmitted music selection for recording;
 - ii. a receiver;
 - iii. a high capacity storage medium, in communication with the receiver for recording the preselected music selection in digital form; and
 - iv. an audio output for outputting audio signals from the high capacity storage medium to a playback device for enabling the customer household to playback the recorded music selection;
 - v. a circuit for degrading a quality of the previewed preselected music selections by compressing the preselected music selections;
- (c) a central controller system having a database for storing therein information corresponding to the customer household;
- (d) a communications link between the customer household and the central controller system for verifying to the controller system when a preselected music selection has been made available for playback; and
- (e) a billing system associated with the central controller system to bill the customer household for a music selection that has been made available for playback.

98. (New) A system for distributing music to a plurality of customer households, the system comprising:

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(a) a data transmission system for blanket transmitting a plurality of music selections to the plurality of customer households in digital format;

(b) a user station at the plurality of customer households, enabling the customer household to preview the plurality of music selections a predetermined number of times before billing the customer household for the plurality of music selections, the user station including:

- i. a user interface for permitting the customer household to preselect a transmitted music selection for recording;
- ii. a receiver;
- iii. a high capacity storage medium, in communication with the receiver for recording the preselected music selection in digital form; and
- iv. an audio output for outputting audio signals from the high capacity storage medium to a playback device for enabling the customer household to playback the recorded music selection;
- v. a circuit for degrading a quality of the previewed preselected music selections by adding distortion to the preselected music selections;

(c) a central controller system having a database for storing therein information corresponding to the customer household;

(d) a communications link between the customer household and the central controller system for verifying to the controller system when a preselected music selection has been made available for playback; and

(e) a billing system associated with the central controller system to bill the customer household for a music selection that has been made available for playback.

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99. (New) A system for distributing music to a plurality of customer households, the system comprising:

(a) a data transmission system for blanket transmitting a plurality of music selections to the plurality of customer households in digital format;

(b) a user station at the plurality of customer households, enabling the customer household to preview the plurality of music selections a predetermined number of times before billing the customer household for the plurality of music selections, the user station including:

i. a user interface for permitting the customer household to preselect a transmitted music selection for recording;

ii. a receiver;

iii. a high capacity storage medium, in communication with the receiver for recording the preselected music selection in digital form; and

iv. an audio output for outputting audio signals from the high capacity storage medium to a playback device for enabling the customer household to playback the recorded music selection;

v. a circuit for degrading a quality of the previewed preselected music selections by overlaying voice over the preselected music selections;

(c) a central controller system having a database for storing therein information corresponding to the customer household;

(d) a communications link between the customer household and the central controller system for verifying to the controller system when a preselected music selection has been made available for playback; and

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(e) a billing system associated with the central controller system to bill the customer household for a music selection that has been made available for playback.

100. (New) A system for distributing music to a plurality of customer households, the system comprising:

(a) a data transmission system for blanket transmitting a plurality of music selections to the plurality of customer households in digital format;

(b) a user station at the plurality of customer households, enabling the customer household to preview the plurality of music selections a predetermined number of times before billing the customer household for the plurality of music selections, the user station including:

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- i. a user interface for permitting the customer household to preselect a transmitted music selection for recording;
 - ii. a receiver;
 - iii. a high capacity storage medium, in communication with the receiver for recording the preselected music selection in digital form; and
 - iv. an audio output for outputting audio signals from the high capacity storage medium to a playback device for enabling the customer household to playback the recorded music selection;
 - v. a circuit for degrading a quality of the previewed preselected music selections by deleting sections from the preselected music selections.

(c) a central controller system having a database for storing therein information corresponding to the customer household;

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(d) a communications link between the customer household and the central controller system for verifying to the controller system when a preselected music selection has been made available for playback; and

(e) a billing system associated with the central controller system to bill customer household for a music selection that has been made available for playback.

101. (New) A method for distributing music to a plurality of customer households, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) blanket transmitting a plurality of music selections to the plurality of customer households in digital format;

(b) providing a customer household with information identifying the music selections that will be transmitted;

(c) preselecting and recording the transmitted music selection at the customer household on a high capacity storage medium;

(d) enabling the customer household to preview the preselected music selection a predetermined number of times, utilizing a user station comprising a circuit for degrading quality of the previewed preselected music selections previewed by compressing the preselected music selections.

(e) enabling the customer household to playback the recorded music selection;

(f) communicating music playback information from the customer household to a central controller system; and

(g) billing the customer household for the recorded music selection that has been played back, based on the communicated music playback information.

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102. (New) A method for distributing music to a plurality of customer households, the method comprising the steps of:

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- (a) blanket transmitting a plurality of music selections to the plurality of customer households in digital format;
 - (b) providing a customer household with information identifying the music selections that will be transmitted;
 - (c) preselecting and recording the transmitted music selection at the customer household on a high capacity storage medium;
 - (d) enabling the customer household to preview the preselected music selection a predetermined number of times, utilizing a user station comprising a circuit for degrading quality of the previewed preselected music selections previewed by adding distortion to the preselected music selections;
 - (e) enabling the customer household to playback the recorded music selection;
 - (f) communicating music playback information from the customer household to a central controller system; and
 - (g) billing the customer household for the recorded music selection that has been played back, based on the communicated music playback information.

103. (New) A method for distributing music to a plurality of customer households, the method comprising the steps of:

- (a) blanket transmitting a plurality of music selections to the plurality of customer households in digital format;

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(b) providing a customer household with information identifying the music selections that will be transmitted;

(c) preselecting and recording the transmitted music selection at the customer household on a high capacity storage medium;

(d) enabling the customer household to preview the preselected music selection a predetermined number of times, utilizing a user station comprising a circuit for degrading quality of the previewed preselected music selections previewed by overlaying voice over the preselected music selections.

(e) enabling the customer household to playback the recorded music selection;

(f) communicating music playback information from the customer household to a central controller system; and

(g) billing the customer household for the recorded music selection that has been played back, based on the communicated music playback information.

104. (New) A method for distributing music to a plurality of customer households, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) blanket transmitting a plurality of music selections to the plurality of customer households in digital format;

(b) providing a customer household with information identifying the music selections that will be transmitted;

(c) preselecting and recording the transmitted music selection at the customer household on a high capacity storage medium;

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